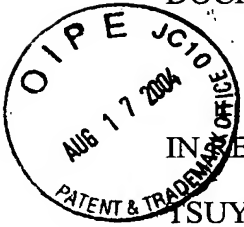


DOCKET NO: 251701US0



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

:

TSUYOSHI SATO, ET AL.

: ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION

SERIAL NO: 10/820,712

:

FILED: APRIL 9, 2004

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FOR: ALKALINE PROTEASE

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Prior to an examination on the merits, the Applicants respectfully request entry of the following Preliminary Amendment.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.